A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, July 16. 1709.

WHen a little before the late Union, you were all here running mad upon the *Scots*; one was for declaring War against them, another for interrupting their Trade with *France*; a third for prohibiting their Linen, *tho' we could not well tell how to do without it*; another for prohibiting their Cattle; another the Exportation of their Wool—One, whose Malice did not fail him, whatever his Senses did, was for sending all the *Scots* that were settled in *England*, Bag and Baggage, with their Wives and Children, and all their Goods into *Scotland*——

Wou'd you dare, said a *Scots* Gentleman, that I knew very well—They would bring so much Wealth, so much Industry, so much Experience in Manufactures, in Husbandry, in the Manner of Living, in the Arts of Life, such a Taste of Liberty, such Customs, and such Methods into *Scotland* with them, —Above all, they would create so much Trade abroad, and Consumption at home, that we would quickly be a Match for you.

And I cannot but say, this was a right Notion enough, whether we respect *England*, as the *Scots* are scatter'd about in it in all Places, and in all Kinds of Trade, or whether you respect *Scotland* in its present Want of Commerce and Improvement.

It is well known, and I need spend no more time about it, that *Scotland* is neither deficient in the Goodness of Soil, Temper of Climate,

Climate, proper Produce or Scituation for Trade, to make it flouriſh equally with the reſt of *Britain*. Your Notions of Barrenneſs and Starving, are ridiculous; betray your Ignorance, or your Wiſhes that it were ſo —— He that wants no Money in *Scotland*, wants nothing you can have in *England*; and he that wants Money in *England*, wants every thing that they have in *Scotland* —— The only Wants in *Scotland*, are the Genius for Improvement, and Stocks to Encourage it.

In order to improve *Scotland* in Trade, I lay it down as a Fundamental Maxim, Their Lands muſt be firſt improv'd. If you will Cure the raging Diſtemper of Poverty and Sloth, you muſt begin at the Principles of Improvement; and theſe are the Produce of the Earth.

If the Lands in *Scotland* are made Rich, they will make the People Rich; the Encreaſe of Produce muſt mend the Way of Living of thoſe that produce it —— The Encreaſe of Rent muſt enrich the Landlord. As Wealth increaſes, Expences muſt increaſe; and this makes Trade —— Again, As the Produce increaſes, it will maintain and employ more Hands: This will raiſe the Value of Labour; raiſing the Value of Labour encourages the Poor to work; for 'tis Wages makes Men diligent: The Reward of Induſtry makes Men induſtrious —— Two things only engender Sloth in the World, Pride and Poverty — Encouragement to Labour, Advance of Wages, and Plenty of Food removes the Laſt —— As to the Firſt, even Pride it ſelf will ſtoop to Induſtry, where that Induſtry meets with Encouragement.

But what Heart has Mankind to Labour, when Miſery, Want, and a dejected Poverty is continually before them? — Induſtry has its Reward with it; *The diligent hand maketh rich*, ſays *Solomon*; but it muſt be where there is ſomething to do —— For in vain is a Man Diligent that has nothing to Labour — And ſpeaking to *Scotland* Now; this is the Occaſion of your moſt vigorous, ſprightly and induſtrious Spirits flying from you, and going abroad. The Caſe is plain; There they muſt work hard, and apply cloſe, but it anſwers, their Labour and Diligence is rewarded with Succeſs —— And this is the Occaſion that the *Scots* are Abroad the moſt Diligent, and at Home the leaſt ſo; Abroad the moſt forward in Buſineſs, and at Home the moſt backward of any People I know in *Europe* —— The briſk enterprizing Spirit of the *Scots*, when Abroad, puſhes at every thing, and ſucceeds: At Home they are diſcouraged and dejected; let them puſh at what they will, it cannot ſucceed: No Proſpect, no View of any thing conſiderable before them; no Reward to induſtrious Contrivance; no plentiful Subſiſtance in their Labour; and this takes off the Edge of their Spirit, Diſcourages and Diſheartens them — and either they ſit down contented with narrow Circumſtances, live meanly upon the native Produce of their Eſtates, or leave their own Country, in order to grow Rich, which they ſee is not ſo eaſie to do at Home — And 'tis obſerv'd, they are the moſt Induſtrious of People when they come Abroad, and are generally Rich, their extraordinary Diligence being ordinarily bleſt with Succeſs ——

This Want of Improvement of Lands, makes Want of Trade; Want of Trade, makes Want of People; Want of People again diſcourages Improvement, and Miſchiefs brood upon themſelves, hatch one another, and joyn together to Depopulate *Scotland*, and that Impoveriſhes her.

And yet we will not hearken to the Felicity of Increaſing our People — Nothing has made us Rich, but the Encreaſe of our People: Nothing has made *Scotland* Poor, but the Decreaſe of their People — *Turn the Tables*; Nothing can Impoveriſh us like the Diminiſhing our Number of People — Nothing can Enrich *Scotland*, but the Encreaſe of their People.

I ſhall hereafter ſay ſomething to the Manner of Encouraging the People in *Scotland* to ſtay at Home — which I believe to be no difficult matter: I ſhall conclude it now with this — The firſt Step muſt be Improving their Land.

I know it is often ſaid in *Scotland* — If ſome of your *Engliſh* People, that are bred to Improvement, would come among us, and ſet to work upon our Lands, to put us in a Way

Way of Improvement, we ſhould ſoon fall into it — And this is very true —— But this flyes in the Face of our Popular Clamours here, againſt bringing People among us —— If *Scotland*, which you think is ſo poor, would embrace more People, and believe their improv'd Lands would ſupport them — what is to be ſaid of Us, who have already increaſed our Wealth and People at ſuch a rate, merely by Incloſing, Cultivating and Improving our Lands?

There is no queſtion to be made, that *Scotland* will Encloſe, Improve, and Increaſe both her People and her Produce, and by conſequence her Trade, when her farther Acquaintance with *England* ſhall inſtruct her in Method, and ſhew her the Advantage. The Great Myſtery I am wondering at, and reproaching you all for, is, That *England*, who is grown to what ſhe is purely by the Improving her Lands, ſhould be backward to go on with thoſe Improvements, which would ſtill increaſe her Wealth, Strength and Commerce too, as much beyond what it is now, as what is now, is really beyond what it was 300 Years ago.

I ſee two Queſtions offer themſelves here againſt my Propoſal of Improving *Scotland*.

1. How does it appear that Encloſing the Lands in *Scotland* ſhall be an Improving them?
2. How does it appear, that a bare Improving the Lands ſhall raiſe *Scotland* from its preſent Diſcouragments and Poverty?

I hope it will not be counted uſeleſs to us in *England* to diſcourſe of the Improvement of *Scotland*; ſince to all *Engliſhmen*, that have any Pretence to the Poſſeſſion of their Senſes, the Enriching, Encouraging, and Increaſing of *Scotland*, ought to be eſteem'd as our own. But if this Story ſhould ſeem leſs edifying to you, the Defect of which muſt be your Judgment — you muſt, however, bear with it now: For ſince this Paper extends it ſelf to *Scotland* as well as *England*, being Re-printed there, it ought, and ſhall always have, a Part of it dedicated to their Advantage as well as Satisfaction; and yet I hope few publick Subjects can be here treated of, but may be made uſeful to both.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have been long treating of the Planting, Settling, Entertaining and Diſpoſing of the poor *Palatine* Refugees, who are come among us —— I am ſorry there ſhould be any Diſatisfaction among our Poor about them —— While they are thus held in ſuſpence among us, every Trade, every Manufacture, (I mean the People employ'd in them) look upon the poor Strangers as a Cloud hovering over them, and which they think will every day break upon their Particular, and deluge all their Labour.

From hence we ſee growing Averſions to them, falſe Charges laid on them, and we look on them not with Pity and Commiſeration, but with Envy and Jealouſie, and I fear it ſhould riſe up to Hatred and Averſion.

Upon this Conſideration, after what I have ſaid already to make our Entertaining them rational, I could not but communicate a Letter I received yeſterday about them from an unknown Hand; which, however it may have Objections againſt it, yet will clear up the Intention and Deſign of theſe poor Strangers in coming hither, and may a little prevent the Encreaſe of our ill Temper to them.

SIR,

HAving read ſeveral of your late Reviews, *wherein you prove, very well, what great Advantage the Settling the poor* Palatines *here will be to this Kingdom, which I humbly conceive is undoubtedly true. But the Humour of the* Engliſh *Work-People*

is

is at this time so averse to Foreigners, that some of them have declared (as I am inform'd) that if they come to Work among them, they will be Occasion of their Deaths; and who knows of what ill Consequence such a thing might be to this Nation? Therefore it is to be wish'd, that you could turn your Thoughts to consider of what Advantage they might be in the Plantations, that so comparing one with the other, the Affair may be set in a true Light; for which I do not know of any better Expedient, at present, than by your Means; your Review *being a Paper generally read, I have no other End in writing this, but from a sincere Desire for the Good of these poor People, and I pray God direct you for the best.*

Sir, These poor People declare, That they heard nothing of the Act of Naturalization before they left their Country; but Papers were dispersed among them, and fixed on their Church-Doors, that if they came over into England, *the Queen would send them over to the Plantations: They came over for that Purpose, and their Hearts are set thereon, and are much troubled to hear of being settled here. I believe, if it were determined to send them away before the Brief comes out, and mention'd therein, there would be double the Money raised, as to settle them here; but I refer all to your Judgment.*

July 9. 1709.

I may hereafter say something to the Proposal of sending them abroad, to our Colonies, which I confess I am against; but in the mean time this Letter makes it evident, the poor People had their Eye that way, and were far from desiring to come and eat the Bread out of our Mouths, as some People suggest.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE Author of this Paper, has for some time left off reproving the scandalous Vices of the Age, by way of particular Reprehension; and shall be very loth to revive his Ancient Society of the Scandalous Club, tho' he is every Day, both intreated and provoked to it: But he cannot excuse himself from telling Mr. *Henry* ..... whose Sirname ends with a *ll*, and who he is not afraid to describe; that if he does not within three days time, do Justice to Mrs.... whose Daughter he has Deluded, and most barbarously conceal'd from her, till the Mother between Grief and Fright is almost distracted, and neither will say whether he has Marry'd or designs to Marry her—— Our Society will without fail assemble on purpose, and pass a Sentence as little to his advantage, as a History of his Treatment of the whole Family deserves.

A Gentleman who sent the Author of this Paper, a Book about the Prophets, is desired to let it be known how he may have a Letter so directed, as that it may be certain to come to his Hands.

Just publish'd,

THE Monthly Miscellany, or Memoirs for the Curious, for *April*. 1709. Vol. III. Containing, The Armorial Bearings, &c. of *Scotland*. A Discourse of Apparitions and Witchcraft. An Essay on Duelling. GOD the Efficient Cause of Man's Salvation, &c. The Virtues of several Sovereign Plants growing wild about *Sassafras* River in *Mary-Land*. Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*. Where may also be had the two first Volumes, or single Ones to this Time.

*** Those for *May* and *June* will be publish'd with all Speed.

Just publish'd,

A New Description of the World, delineating *Europe*, *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America*; with a Map and Tables of the Empires, Kingdoms, Provinces, and Cities therein, together with a Chronological and Historical Account of the Emperors, Kings, Princes, Governments, Religion, Languages, Customs, Commodities, Revolutions, and Rarities thereof. The second Edition. By *H. Curson*, Gent. Sold by *J. Woodward* in St. *Christopher's* Church-Yard, in *Thread-needle-Street*.